



To: Attendees

From: Joe Patton | JP

Date: April 30, 2021
Revised May 6, 2021

Comm. No: 212096

Subject: Independent School District #756
Long Range Planning Meeting #3
April 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Discussion Topics:

- A. Thoughts Since Last Meeting:
1. The District was asked to expand on previous comments made about Early Childhood programming:
 - a. There is a big push for early education programs starting to get kids into the school system earlier (ages three and four). There are many benefits to bringing an Early Childhood program into the Elementary.
 - b. Preschool through fourth grade collaborate, which helps integrate younger kids into the school system.
 2. The option of daycare (school age daycare) provided by the District was discussed further. While the District understands the need for childcare, there are currently private providers that support that function, which the District supports. At this time, there are other issues that the District is focused on for providing educational support to the community, and childcare is not a strategic initiative for the District to provide.
- B. Continued Discussion on Early Childhood Programming:
1. Mid-day transportation is a major issue for parents with Early Childhood programs. How is the program scheduled?
 2. It was recently announced that federal funding is going to be provided to states to help expand Early Childhood programming for three and four year olds.
- C. Continued Discussion on CTE (Career and Technical Education) Considerations:
1. The Industrial Technology program is lacking in advanced courses, which students could get college credit for.
 2. The District is currently in discussion with Riverland Community College about becoming a partner.
 - a. A representative from Riverland would physically come to the school and act as a facilitator to build curriculum for more advanced course.
 3. The existing facilities need to be updated to accommodate more advanced courses and give students more opportunities for college credit.



4. Many students have expressed interest in the opportunity to take more advanced courses which could earn them college credit
 5. The spaces should be designed to be as flexible as possible to accommodate rapidly changing learning environments.
- D. Reviewed Initial Diagrams to Facilitate Continued Criteria Discussion:
1. Option A: The auditorium and game gym are connected to the main commons (acts as a lobby/ hub during events). The game gym remains in its existing location and the new auditorium shown off the north side. New auxiliary gyms are shown at the west side of the building by the locker rooms/ other athletics spaces and new classrooms are shown either off the north or south sides of the building.
 - a. The auditorium is not near music/ choir.
 - b. It was mentioned that the auditorium should be easily accessible by the public. At this location it will be directly adjacent to the main entry/ commons.
 2. Option B: The auditorium is shown on the south side of the building to be closer to the music/ choir rooms. Auxiliary gyms are in the same location as Option A, and classrooms could be at either the north side of the classroom wing, north side of the game gym, or south side of the building.
 - a. Commons is a hub for games but not the auditorium.
 - (1) A separate small lobby could be built by the auditorium.
 - b. Less room for addition near CTE.
 - c. A question was asked if sound transfer between spaces would be an issue with the auditorium near the industrial tech spaces. The new auditorium would be designed to be acoustically separated, so there would be no issue. We could also look at retrofitting existing adjacent shop spaces with acoustic materials if needed.
 3. Option C: The existing game gym/ stage could be turned into an auditorium and three new gym spaces are shown at the west side of the building.
 - a. Building three new gym spaces creates flexibility in use and opens up opportunity to potentially build a walking track.
 - b. Commons is a hub for auditorium, but not gym games.
 - (1) Gyms could be placed off the north of the auditorium to be closer to the commons, but would be further away from locker rooms.
 4. It was mentioned that while adding a new auditorium and gym spaces may not be part of the immediate need, it is important to think long term and understand where these large "boulders" fit best, so that a classroom addition is not built at these locations.
- E. Are windows important to have at all classrooms?
1. There was consensus that all classrooms should have windows.
 2. No additions should be built that would impede on classrooms ability to get natural light.
- F. The best approach for fifth and sixth and seventh through twelfth grade organization was discussed:
1. It was mentioned that it's important to keep fifth and sixth graders separated from older students as much as possible.



2. Fifth and sixth grade move around the building far less than older students, since they stay in their classroom a majority of the day, (pull out for art, science, gym, lunch, etc...) so they should be placed in classrooms closer to those support spaces. Older students are more comfortable moving around the building.
 3. Fifth and sixth should take over existing classrooms, which are closer to support spaces, and the new added classrooms could be occupied by older students.
- G. Personalized flexible learning spaces were discussed:
1. Typically more beneficial for older students.
 2. It was mentioned that it will be easier to build new spaces that accommodate personalized flexible learning, rather than renovating existing classrooms.
 3. The media center could be re designed to provide more a more flexible learning environment. The media center becomes the hub for the classroom wing.
- H. The Auditorium was Discussed:
1. The community is going to push back against a new auditorium unless it can be marketed properly.
 2. It was mentioned that interest in sports appears to be waning while interest in fine arts is increasing. The community should be investing in performing arts to give more students the opportunity to get involved at an earlier age.
 3. The auditorium should be a multifunctional space that is flexible enough to accommodate many different learning environments.
 4. Auditoriums are often noted to be the most highly used spaces in schools nowadays.
 5. Would the community have access to the new athletic/ auditorium spaces?
 - a. Time will be made available for the community to use these spaces.
- I. Next Steps:
1. The May 4, 2021 meeting will be canceled, and the next meeting will be on May 11 2021.
 2. The demographic study should be completed and made available for our next meeting.